

What is claimed is:

1. A programmable headset comprising:
 - a headband; and
 - an electronics housing including:
 - a headset infrared light detector arranged to receive infrared light signals, convert the infrared light signals into electric signals and supply the electric signals to an output, the headset infrared light detector being located in a detector portion of the electronics housing;
 - a headset signal processing device with an input coupled to the output of the headset infrared light detector for processing the electric signals supplied by the headset infrared light detector;
 - a transmitter operably connected to the headset signal processing device;
 - and
 - a receiver operably connected to the headset signal processing device.
2. The headset of claim 1 further comprising a battery attached to the headband and operably connected to the headset signal processing device.
3. The headset of claim 1 further comprising a programming unit comprising:
 - a cradle for receiving the detector portion of the headset,
 - a programming unit signal processing device with an output;
 - a programming unit infrared light emitter positioned for infrared light communication with the headset infrared light detector when the detector portion is positioned in the cradle, the programming unit infrared light emitter being operably connected to the output of the programming unit signal processing device.
4. The headset of claim 3 further comprising:
 - a headset infrared light emitter operably connected to an output of the headset signal processing unit; and

wherein the programming unit further comprises a programming unit infrared light detector arranged to receive infrared light signals, convert the received infrared light signals into electric signals and supply the electric signals to an input of the programming unit signal processing device.

5. The headset of claim 1 wherein the detector portion of the electronics housing is located at an end of the electronics housing.

6. The headset of claim 1 wherein the detector portion of the headset includes at least a window of infrared light transparent material.

7. The headset of claim 1 wherein the headband includes a speaker and a microphone, wherein the headband is operably coupled to the electronics housing by a wire connection.

8. The headset of claim 1 wherein the electronics housing is attached to the headband and the electronics housing includes a speaker and a microphone.

9. An apparatus for programming a headset, comprising:
a headset comprising:
a headband,
a headset signal processing device including an input,
a headset infrared light detector positioned in a detector portion of the headset and arranged to receive infrared light signals, convert the infrared light signals into electric signals and supply the electric signals to an output that is coupled to the input of the headset signal processing device, and
a speaker operably connected to the headset signal processing device;
and
a programming unit comprising:
a cradle for receiving the detector portion of the headset,

a programming unit infrared light emitter for communication with the headset infrared light detector when the detector portion of the headset is positioned in the cradle, and

a programming unit signal processing device operably connected to the programming unit infrared light emitter.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising a base unit connected to the programming unit, the base unit comprising a control panel.
11. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the programming unit further comprises a control panel.
12. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the programming unit is wall mountable.
13. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the detector portion of the headset is located at an end of the headset.
14. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the detector portion of the headset includes at least a window of infrared light transparent material.
15. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the programming unit further comprises a programming unit housing at least partially enclosing the programming unit infrared light emitter and the programming unit signal processing device, wherein the cradle is defined in the housing and at least a portion of the cradle comprises an infrared light transparent material.
16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the cradle consists of an infrared light transparent material.

17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the programming unit housing consists of an infrared light transparent material.

18. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the headset further comprises an electronics housing that includes the headset signal processing device, the headset infrared light detector and the speaker, and wherein the detector portion of the headset is a part of the electronics housing.

19. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the headset further comprises a headset infrared light emitter and the programming unit further comprises a programming unit infrared light detector.

20. A method of programming a headset comprising:
positioning a detector portion of a headset in a cradle of a programming station, where the headset comprises a headset infrared light detector for receiving signals from a programming station infrared light emitter;
transmitting an infrared light signal from the programming station infrared light emitter to the headset infrared detector, where the signal contains information regarding operation settings of the headset;
establishing operation settings of the headset in response to the signal.

21. The method of claim 20 further comprising:
indicating a ready condition for receiving a programming signal of the headset by transmitting an infrared light signal from a headset IR detector emitter to a programming station IR detector emitter, after.

22. The method of claim 22 wherein the step of indicating a ready condition further comprises turning the headset on.